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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

President Lai's Remarks on Legislative Amendments



Photo: Taiwan's Presidential Office

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On the morning of June 24, President Lai Ching-te delivered his

remarks on recent legislative amendments. In remarks, President Lai emphasized opposition to an expansion of legislative power, not legislative reforms, and said that the legislature should naturally engage in reforms, but refrain from an excessive expansion of power, adding that any proposal for legislative reform should remain legal and constitutional. Particularly, the president said, the investigative powers of the Legislative Yuan should not infringe upon the powers of the judiciary or the Control Yuan, and more importantly, they must not infringe upon people's basic rights, including the right to privacy, trade secrets, and the freedom to withhold expression. Therefore, on the basis of safeguarding the constitutional order and protecting the rights of the people, the president stated that he will petition the Constitutional Court for a constitutional interpretation, as well as petition for a preliminary injunction.

Emphasizing that the president's role is as a guardian of democratic and constitutional governance, President Lai said that given that there are concerns about the recent amendments being unconstitutional, concerns that they confound constitutional provisions on the separation of powers and those on checks and balances, it is incumbent upon him to perform his duties as president and take action. Today, he said, he has decided to petition the Constitutional Court for a constitutional interpretation to rule on the constitutionality and legitimacy of the recent amendments. Stating that this approach is responsible to our nation and to our history and actually reflects the expectations of the people, the president expressed his hope that all of our fellow citizens can work together to safeguard our constitutional system and more deeply entrench our democracy, allowing for the sustainable development of Taiwan's democracy.

[Link to the full remarks from the official press release >>>](#)

After the President's remarks, the floor was opened for media questions. Below is a summary of the questions from the media:

Q: The Recent Announcement by China's Taiwan Affairs Office Regarding Sanctions on Various Forms of Taiwan Independence

President Lai: Democracy is not a crime; autocracy is the real sine. China has no right to sanction the people of Taiwan simply because of their beliefs. Moreover, China has no authority to cross borders to

prosecute the people of Taiwan.

Q: Criticism of the Justices by the Opposition Party

President Lai: Although justices are nominated by the President, they must be approved by the Legislative Yuan, which means they undergo a rigorous constitutional process. I want to reiterate that while the outcome of constitutional interpretations is pending, both the ruling and opposition parties should accept the results. Only then can we resolve constitutional disputes and allow the country to move forward.

Q: Concerns of Chip Engineers Regarding the Impact of the Legislation

President Lai: During this period, we have indeed received many concerns from the business community, foreign chambers of commerce, and even the international community. They worry that if this law is implemented, business secrets may be compromised, significantly affecting foreign investment interests and Taiwan's future international competitiveness. This is the main reason why the Office of the President and I have proposed constitutional interpretations. We cannot allow changes in the business environment to profoundly impact Taiwan's economic development.

Q: Controversy over the Expansion of Congressional Powers or the Impact of Constitutional Interpretations on Taiwan's Capital Market

President Lai: The stock market is the window to the economy. A strong stock market represents a strong economy and robust industries resulting from our collective efforts. Both the ruling and opposition parties should cherish this and avoid passing any laws that might impact economic and industrial development. This is our most basic commitment to the country, society, and the people.

[Link to President Lai's response on Treads >>>](#)

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